

THE INTERNATIONAL MASTER RAILWAY INDEX

GUIDE TO THE 11.2 EDITION

An apology.

Due to heavy commitments elsewhere, I have not had time to complete the 11.2 edition, (this will be available in February 2018) but as I issue complimentary copies at the Warley Model Rail show to those who reciprocate by sending me their magazines, I have compiled a beta edition, which includes all 12,000 new entries; but not all the headings, so for a few entries you will have search using the codes. However this production is limited to a few free copies.

Introduction

The objective of the 'Index' is to cover all articles in all railway magazines across the world dating back 1896, with some even earlier. Although the original aim was only to cover articles of half a page or more, much important information is often found in short paragraphs, so almost all headings, whatever their size, are listed.

The information covers the whole world and now includes 400,000 titles. Approximately 25,000 entries are added each year. Annuals are now included, as certain publishers have continued multi-part series which commenced in their magazines in their annuals (naughty!).

This edition of the "Index" differs from previous versions. With reluctance I have dropped the Access/Runtime version from the disc. The reason for this, as explained in the previous edition, is that Laury Burr, who constructed the system, has been unable to support it for last five years and the content in Access became significantly out of date. However, Excel has a similar system upon which Laury based his version and its use is explained in "operation" below.

How to use the information

Open the International Railway Master Index icon . You will find 15 files

<i>IntRysBtn</i>	<i>International scene and general railways of Britain</i>
<i>BR-TOC</i>	<i>British Railways post 1948 to date, including TOCs etc.</i>
<i>GWR-Sthn</i>	<i>Great Western and Southern Railway and their predecessors</i>
<i>LMS-LNER</i>	<i>L.M.S. and L.N.E.R. with predecessors</i>
<i>LT-Ind</i>	<i>London Transport, minor and narrow gauge railways, War Department, locomotive constructors, contractors, industrial and trams.</i>
<i>Pres-Irlnd</i>	<i>British preservation, Channels Islands, Isle of Man and Ireland North & South)</i>

Abkz,Fin	European countries from Abkhazir to Finland
Fra-Ger	France, Georgia, Gibraltar and Germany
Gce-Yugo	Greece to (former) Yugoslavia
AsAfrica	Asian and African
CanMex	Canada, Greenland, Disko Island and Mexico
USA 1	United States Class 1, 2 and 3 railroads,
USA 2	United States interurbans, industrial etc.
CenSthnAm	Central & South America
AustNZ	Australasia and Oceania

Operation:

Once you have opened the file, you can find your requirements in one of three ways

1. a) highlight the column you require,
b) click on the 'Home" tab at the top of the screen,
c) click on "Find and select" at the extreme top right,
d) click on "find" in the drop-down table,
e) type in your requirement in the "find" box and return.

This will take you to the entries that you require.

alternatively:

2. All the codes are in the first three left hand columns and the index is enclosed as a separate file, check the code from the index using the first two columns and browse down or use the "find" from screen

The index is worldwide and covers all known railways. you just use the first two columns.

3. Click on "Data" then click on "Sort" and follow the instructions; pick the columns that you wish to sort on. This is particularly useful if sorting by magazine contents (here use the columns: Periodical, date2, page2) This also indicates which magazines have been included **(and don't forget to tick the "my data has headers" in the sort box!)**

You can also browse down the file until you find what you require.

I now include my workings so that others can make their own additions. The main body of the Index has a white background, containing most of your requirements, but to the left on a beige background are the main workings and to the right in a violet background are additional workings which include the magazine code and dates which bring them into year and month order

You will see that in codebooks, I have also included a list of railway magazine titles worldwide (over 5,300, with half still in production). Needless to say, I do not have all of them, though my collection continues to grow and now stands in excess of 47,000, with a further separate 1,700 complete individual magazine indices.

I am very aware that there have been several versions of Excel. Whilst this is finished in Excel 2010, I have checked and found that it is compatible with earlier versions. However, should you have difficulty, return the disc and I will provide you with a copy which hopefully fits your programme (back to Excel 97).

I had hoped to include photographs in this version, but I am still having difficulty in getting photos to stay in the right place when adding lines to the disc. I hope to get this sorted for 2018. If anybody can help, I would be extremely grateful

What is included? - and what is not.

All matter relating to prototype railways is included. Each railway company is divided into 285 subject headings, although these are only used where there is content. All subjects are set out with the general information first, followed by specifics in alphabetical or numerical order.

Minimum gauge railways down to 7-inch gauge are included, but not engineering societies with their own lines or individual locomotive owners (there are a few exceptions).

Prototype information from model periodicals is included, but model railways are not, unless the information relating to a model contains information on the prototype. I have included some articles on certain historic models where there is no apparent information on the prototype, but the modeller has created what appears to be an accurate model using research from sources as yet unknown to me; but these entries are but a handful and relate almost entirely to the late 1840s and 1850s.

Restrictions

You are allowed to import the information on to your hard disc for personal purposes, but may not distribute discs or hard copy to a third party.

Conclusion.

You should have no difficulty using this disc. However, should you have any problems, I will try and sort them out for you, although I am no computer buff.

Please do not suffer in silence - give me a ring! Paper copies can be made available for the various parts, but the cost of production will be greater (the whole work is over 8,000 pages long in A4).

In addition to around 47,000 magazines and 2,700 books, I have over 100,000 negatives on railway subjects taken after 1928 from across the world, so if you have a problem with an illustration, I may be able to help. In addition to my own photographs (Britain from 1955, Europe from 1959 and USA from 1992), I have added the collections of David Martindell, which covers the USA and Canada (1928-1961) and Japan (1948-1949) and that of my late father, Guy Wildish (Britain, Europe and parts of Africa 1932-2002). When time permits, I am digitising the negatives & slides.

A few of the entries do not appear to have a "home", this has been caused by not having all the information available from the source or my own incompetence in carelessly removing info from the end columns. Rather than delete them, I hope to pick up the missing details as I work through the input.

I hope you find this useful, I have yet to have a complaint (except for one wife who moaned that her husband now spends more time searching the files than he does with her!).

I have been asked by the National Railway Museum to see if we can incorporate the late Professor Alan Jackson's references (about 60,000) held by the NRM into the 'Index'. This is an exciting development which could benefit all: these references would then become available to the public for the first time and the 'Index' would benefit from having the NRM's resources behind it.

Please remember that this is written for you and if you think there are any improvements I can make, please let me know on 01253-725107, but do remember that I am a one-man band with big commitments to Guide Dogs and it has taken many years to get this far.

My heartfelt gratitude and thanks go to Michael Burberry for his help and advice, and my wife Brenda, in putting up with the long hours that the input entails.

If you see me demonstrating at an exhibition, please come and introduce yourself. I would appreciate any comments that you might have.

I have enjoyed preparing the information over the last 35 years and hope that it becomes a valuable source of reference for you.

Gerald Wildish

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